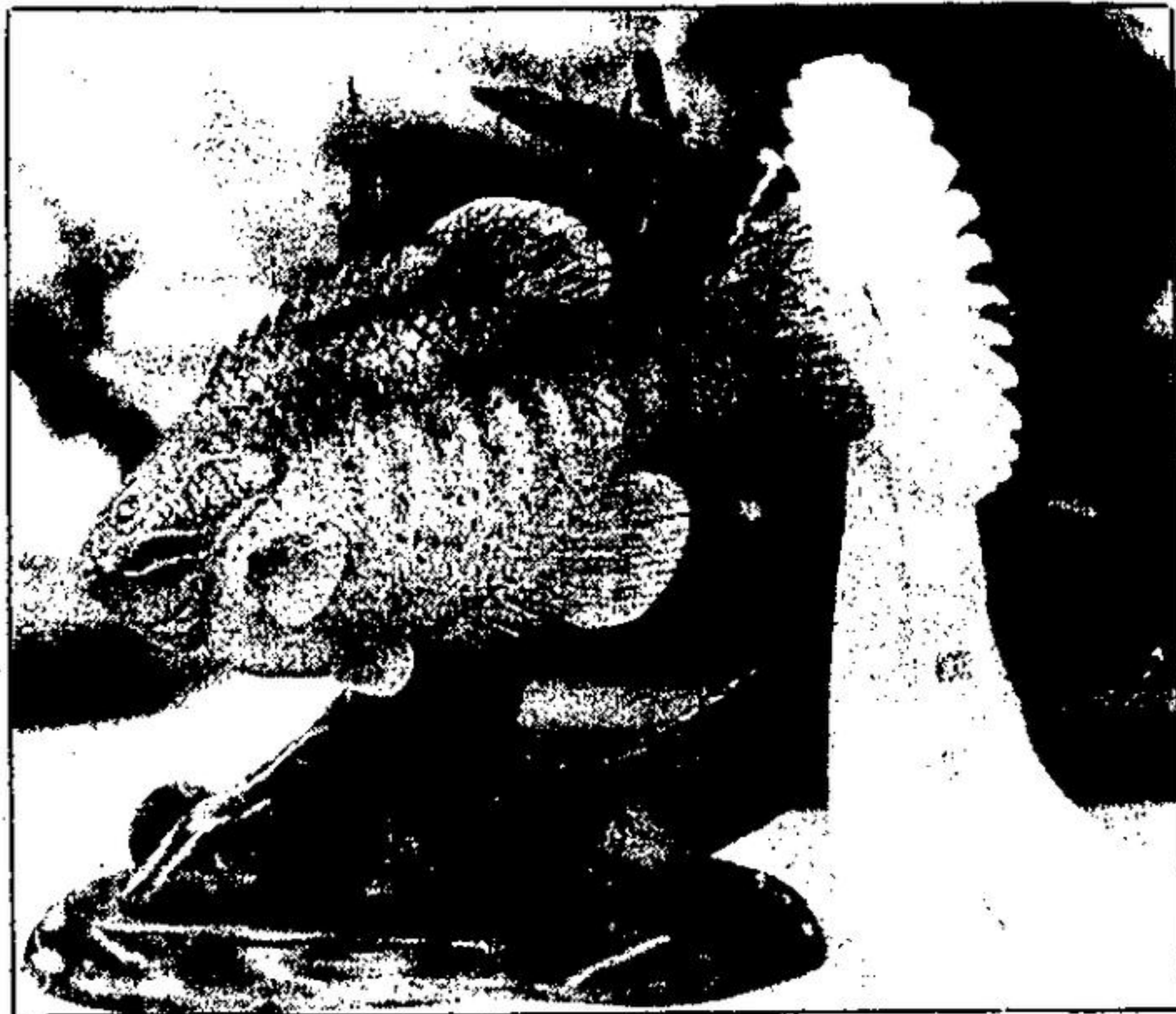


We took 'em by storm at the Ex

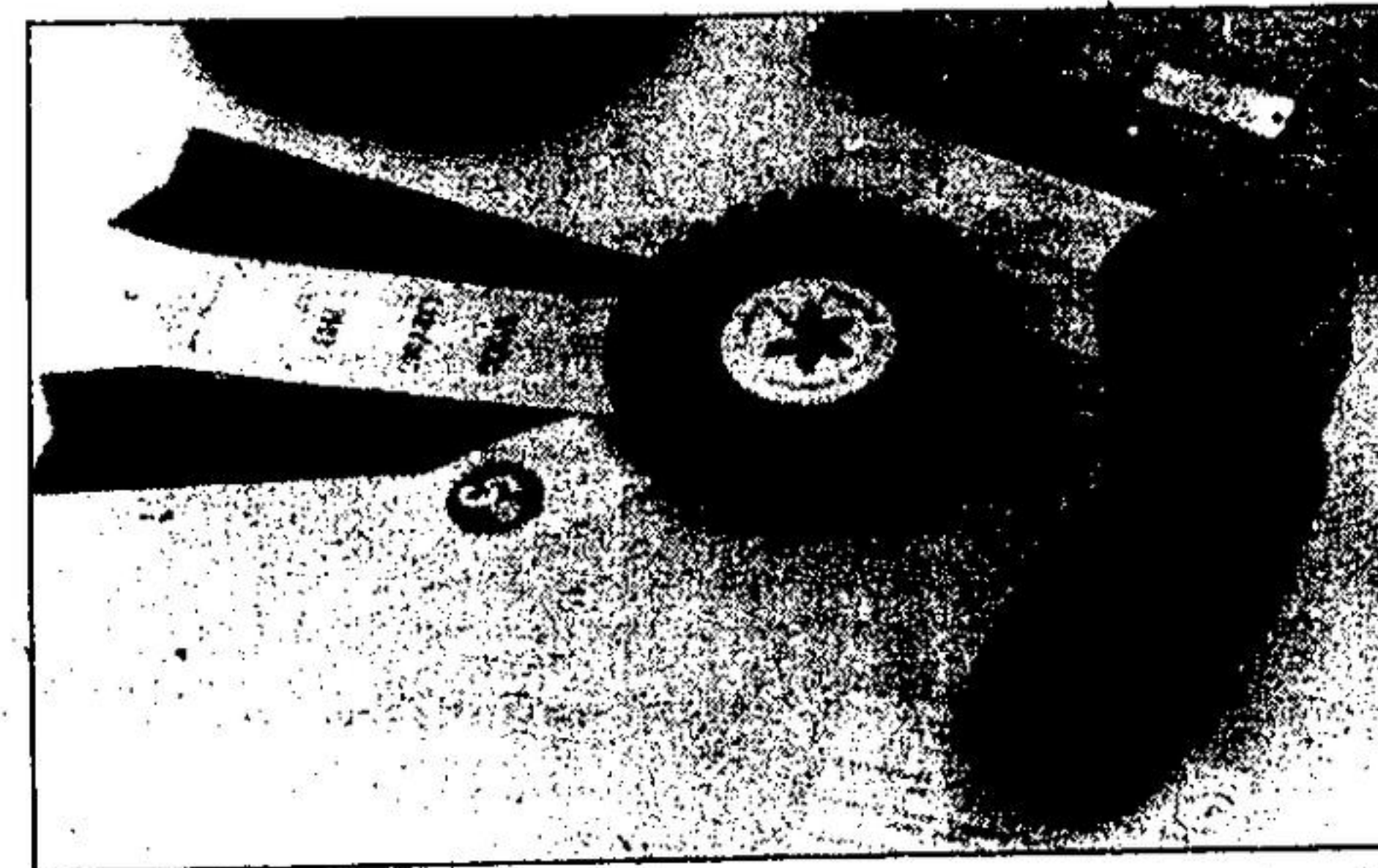
Locals fared well at the fair



Keith Wellstead of Georgetown took third prize at the wood carving exhibition with his Red Breast Sunfish entry in aquatic and marine life class.



Heinrich Boehringer of Georgetown won second place in the bear in-the-round class with this grizzly bear.



Craig Thompson won fifth prize in the miscellaneous class with this work boot. (Photos courtesy of Thomson News Service)

TORONTO-Perhaps it's because fewer and fewer things are made from wood nowadays. Perhaps it's the feel and look of wood. Or simply because beauty will always have its admirers.

Relocated this year to the Better Living building of the Canadian National Exhibition, the wood carving competition has seen the qualities of its entries increase dramatically.

The competition is designed to highlight the best and brightest of wood carvers from North America, Great Britain and Europe and to promote the art form to CNE visitors.

Entries this year are down slightly to about 900 pieces. But competition official Jim Williams says the number of carvers entering pieces has increased to 500. The figures are evidence of an increasing interest, says Mr. Williams. He speculated that carvers also are being more particular about the pieces they enter.

Mr. Williams, an executive member of the Ontario Wood Carvers Association, which mounted the show along with the CNE, explains that wood carving can be divided into three categories: relief (for wall hanging), in-the-round (three dimensional), marquetry (fashioning pictures from wood veneers) and wood burning.

But for competition purposes, within these categories are classes such as caricature, wildlife, abstract, floating decoys, aquatic

and marine life, walking stick and housewares.

For wood carvers, the undeniable attraction of the Canadian International Wood Carving Competition is not only the variety of classes, but more importantly the quality of the art form.

To illustrate just how coveted the best wood carvings are, a near-life size carving of Arctic birds, carved by Orton resident Paul Burdette, reportedly sold for \$30,000 before being exhibited at the CNE.

Many of the carvings in the competition, which is boasted as the biggest and most important of such competitions in the world, take as many as 400 hours to carve. Others, such as whittled chains and caricatures, take as little as two hours.

Wood carving skill comes easy to some, but for others requires years of patient practice, says Mr. Williams. But with as little as 20 hours of lessons, a novice carver "could do a fairly decent carving," he says.

"But when you get into more detail, you're looking at carvers who have done it for a few years," adds the 40-year veteran carver.

A good carver, says Mr. Williams, is one who "observes detail and tries to imitate it."

Above and beyond that basic requirement, Mr. Williams says good carvers consider the originality of

their design, its presentation and its finish, which can be either natural, stained or painted.

Chisels and knives are generally used in carving, although the tools required depend on the carving style.

Best of Show at this year's competition was an in-the-round entry by Ingersol resident Neil Cox, who also won the runner-up award. Cox, a competition favorite, won a total of 13 awards this year.

A partial list of this year's winners is as follows:

Keith Wellstead of Georgetown came third with his Red Breast Sunfish entry in the aquatic and marine life in-the-round class. Craig Thompson, also from Georgetown, came second in the novice wildfowl class and fifth with his entry in another in-the-round class.

Heinrich Boehringer of Georgetown won a second-place ribbon in the bear in-the-round class. Boehringer also won an honorable mention in another class.

David Huber of Erin won a fourth-place ribbon in the painted in-the-round class for his bald eagle entry.

John Vanderweit of Rockwood received a fifth-place ribbon for his entry in the abstract class.



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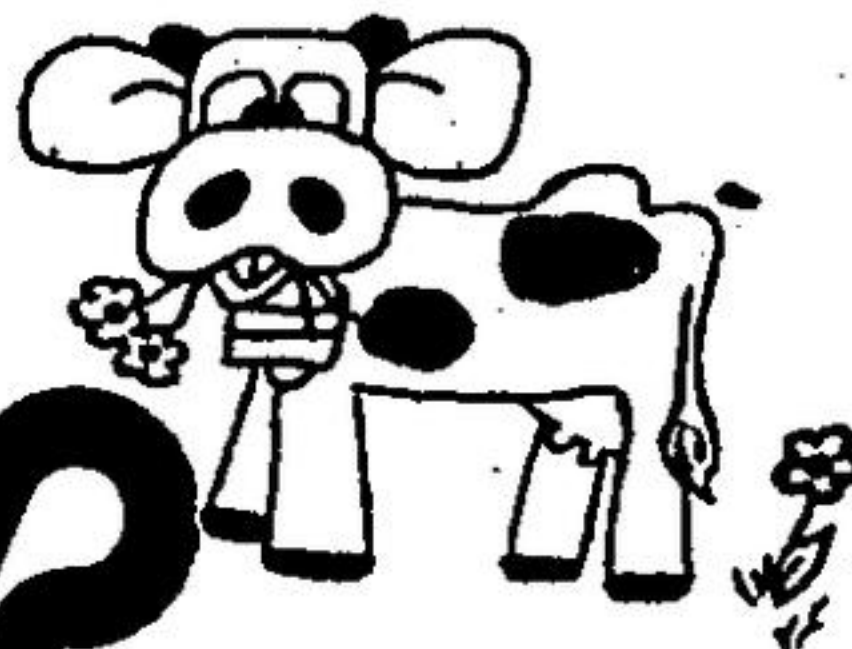


4th Georgetown register today

Beaver, Cub, Scout, Venturer and Rover registration will be held in North Halton District starting on Sept. 6 for 4th Georgetown 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church. Other scouts to register Sept. 11, 12 and 14 details to follow in Outlook on Saturday.

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